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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

24 MAR 1982

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William P. Clark
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Possible Verification Initiative for a Major Presidential
Address

REFERENCE: Your memorandum of March 11, 1982, same subject

1. I agree that the President's European trip in June will present an excellent opportunity to consolidate and build on the benefits derived from his November 18 zero option proposal for INF. Another imaginative proposal by the President could do much to neutralize the well-meaning but ill-founded proposals being advanced by peace groups both here and abroad. It could serve to keep the Soviets on the defensive and to counteract any possible gains accruing to the USSR from Brezhnev's recent moratorium announcement.

2. I believe, however, that selecting an appropriate initiative for the President to tender deserves careful study. A verification initiative is one possibility, assuming that on-going studies in the START and INF IGs of this very complex subject are far enough advanced to permit articulation of a new approach to verification that will catch the imagination of publics both home and abroad. In this respect, we should be careful not to advance proposals for specific verification measures that could be construed in Europe and elsewhere as obstacles to negotiations and raise questions about the President's sincerity and dedication to arms reductions.

3. There are, of course, other possible initiatives the President could take in this regard. He could, for example:

- Present an outline of our approach to a START agreement, or some specific element which would have the desired effect;
- Propose confidence building measures (as opposed to verification measures) which would appeal to those who believe we can find common ground with the Soviets through frank exchanges of views. Examples are:
 - Periodic meetings of the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with their Soviet counterparts to discuss matters of mutual concern;

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- Reciprocal visits to defense installations by senior government and military officials of both sides.

4. We will be happy to participate in any effort to explore further the Presidential initiative that is under consideration.

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey

cc: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Director, Arms Control and
Disarmament Agency

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Distribution:

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- 1 - The Secretary of State
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